

May 4, 1983

LB 602

structure based on their financial need without a particular program or separate program for crime victims aid. The only thing, the only theory I can see that justifies treating a crime victim different from a victim of any number of other things is the idea that somehow society is more responsible for their situation than the situation of a child who is dependent or the situation of someone who is struck by lightning or the situation of any number of other people who are the victims of one thing or another. I think our society has made a gigantic effort to cope with crime. We continue to make that effort, but there will always be crime. There will always be criminals. They cannot be eradicated. Government itself is not responsible for crime any more than it is responsible in my opinion for the lightning that comes out of the sky. So I think that the crime victim should be helped on the same basis as everybody else. I think the program is wrong in philosophical concept to begin with. I don't think we should be putting more money into it. I think we should rely upon the welfare programs that we have in place that are equally open to crime victims as well as others. Thank you.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Senator DeCamp. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease. It takes 25 votes. The question is cease debate. Have you all voted?

ASSISTANT CLERK: Senator Haberman voting yes.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Record the vote.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Debate ceases. Do you wish to close, Senator Schmit?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, Mr. President. First let me say this, I apologize again if the figures seem to be out of proportion or if they happen to be not exactly correct. I did not include any of the court costs that we incur and so those costs, of course, are an addition too. I agree with Senator Chambers that many of these costs are out there to protect innocent persons and I tried to emphasize that in my comments. I am sorry if they were not completely clear. I want to agree also with Senator Chambers in his context in which he says that the awards have not been adequate. I have been embarrassed by some of those awards and I think that probably certainly members of that Board felt that they had to operate within constraints